

SOUTHWEST AREA MOBILIZATION CENTER TASK FORCE CHARTER

(10/07)

I. Authority

This task force is created under the authority of the Southwest Coordinating Group. (SWCG) This charter sets forth the guidelines and procedures by which the Southwest Area Mobilization Center Task Force will operate.

II. Mission Statement

Establish an efficient and effective interagency task force to ensure that SW has the capability to effectively mobilize and demobilize crews, teams, and overhead during regional and national incidents. This Task Force is chartered to evaluate current facilities and processes, and develop both short and long term recommendations.

III. Membership

Membership of the Task Force shall consist of the following:

- Cibola National Forest/AMS – Rich Nieto
- Tonto National Forest/WGMS – Clay Templin
- BIA – Jason Greenlee
- BLM – Shana Miller
- SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
- FS - Roy Hall – Acting Assistant Director for Fire Operations
- Other representative member agencies of the SWCG may involve a representative if able.
- Other ad hoc members or consultants should be consulted as needed during the team's evaluation. These could include individuals with expertise in Procurement/Grants and Agreements, Mob Center operations, Facilities Engineering, Health and Safety, and GSA.

Marcia Andre will serve as the SWCG Liaison.

IV. Organization

The Task Force should select a Leader who will serve for the duration of the project. If, at some point in the future, the SWCG determines that a Committee is needed, this charter will be revised.

V. Responsibilities & Duties

a) **Introduction** - There are two mobilization centers currently used in the Southwest, one near the Albuquerque Airport in New Mexico and the other at Williams Gateway Airport near Phoenix. Both centers are used extensively to stage incoming and outgoing crews, overhead, and incident management teams. The Southwest Coordinating Group decided to charter this team to evaluate the location and operation of the Mob Centers as a result of current and emerging issues.

b) **Background information** -

- Both centers are operated primarily by the Forest Service, with some support provided by other agencies. In 2007 the Albuquerque Mob Center (AMS) serviced 191 crews, with total of 3878 individuals, serving 5061 meals. The Williams-Gateway Mob Center (WGMS) serviced 101 crews, with a total of 1838 individuals, serving 2172 meals.
- Due to the rather limited fire season in the SW, these mobs/demobs were primarily of SW resources going out of GACC. This can vary widely from year to year.
- The future of both centers is uncertain at this time, with no long term agreements in place for their operation. In addition, a number of health and safety issues have been identified at the AMS. While the centers are operated by the Cibola and Tonto National Forests, they receive funding from the United States Forest Service Southwestern Region, consisting of \$50,000 and \$150,000 respectively, which helps to partially fund their operations.

c) **Team outcomes**

- Assess effectiveness of current Mob Center operations
- Identify and evaluate current and emerging operational issues
- Evaluate current locations based on operational needs and issues
- Evaluate agency contributions and benefits
- Evaluate implications of other associated studies that could have implications such as those associated with potential adjacent fire facilities.

- Develop short and long term recommendations associated with location(s), facilities, operations, and funding mix.
- d) **Timeline - team should be prepared to present initial findings and recommendations at the SWCG meeting at date- to-be-determined spring meeting in 2008.**

VI. Meetings

The Task Force shall meet as needed and determined to be necessary, sites selected by the Chair, as convenient to the members. Any Task Force member can request additional meetings or teleconferences if the need should arise.

VII. Approval

This charter shall remain in effect until amended or the SWCG determines that the work has been completed. It is expected that this group will dissolve upon completion of the short and long term analysis, and accompanying recommendations.

Recommended by:

/s/ Marcia Andre

Marcia Andre, SWCG Liaison
Southwest Area Mobilization Center Task Force

Date 10/15/07

Approved by:

/s/ Bob Lineback

Bob Lineback, Chair
Southwest Area Coordinating Group

Date 10/26/07